

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tape mounting system for mounting a product to a tape, comprising:  
a tape holding mechanism that holds the tape substantially horizontally;  
5 a mounting mechanism that mounts the product to the tape by attaching a portion  
of the product to the tape; and

control means operatively coupled to said tape holding mechanism and said  
mounting mechanism for controlling said tape holding mechanism and said mounting  
mechanism such that the portion of the product vertically overlaps the tape while the  
10 portion of the product is attached to the tape.

2. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
the tape is made of a material that is more flexible than a material of which the  
product is made.

15 3. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
said mounting mechanism has a heater, and  
said mounting mechanism attaches the portion of the product to the tape by heating  
said heater.

20 4. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
said mounting mechanism has a pressing member, and  
said control means controls said pressing member to press the portion of the  
product toward said tape holding mechanism, such that the portion of the product and the  
25 tape vertically overlap while the portion of the product is attached to the tape.

5. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
the tape is rendered adhesive at least at a part to which the portion of the product is  
attached; and  
30 said mounting mechanism attaches the portion of the product to the tape by  
pressing the portion against the tape.

6. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
said mounting mechanism further includes an adhesive application device that  
applies an adhesive substance to the tape, and  
said mounting mechanism attaches the portion of the product to the tape via the  
5 adhesive substance.

7. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
a product placing mechanism that places the product onto said mounting  
mechanism,

10 said control means controlling said product placing mechanism such that the  
portion of the product vertically overlaps the tape while the portion of the product is  
attached to the tape.

8. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
15 a product transport mechanism that transports the product toward said mounting  
mechanism.

9. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 8, wherein  
said product transport mechanism and said tape holding mechanism are spaced  
20 apart in a width direction.

10. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 8, wherein  
said product transport mechanism and said tape holding mechanism are spaced  
apart in the vertical direction.

25 11. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 7, wherein  
said product placing mechanism has a grasping member that grasps the product, or  
a suction member that holds the product by suction.

30 12. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 7, further comprising:  
a product transfer mechanism that transfers said product placing mechanism  
toward said mounting mechanism.

13. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 12, wherein  
said product transfer mechanism has a product orientation change mechanism that  
changes an orientation of the product.

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14. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 7, wherein  
said product placing mechanism applies pressure to the product, such that said  
control means performs a seal check of the product.

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15. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 12, further comprising:  
imaging means that produces an image signal of the product before the product is  
mounted onto the tape; and  
said control means controls said product transfer mechanism based on the image  
signal from said imaging means.

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16. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 8, wherein  
said product transport mechanism transports the product that is discharged from a  
packaging machine which produces products by packaging articles.

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17. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 8, wherein  
said tape holding mechanism is disposed in a linearly extended manner from said  
product transport mechanism and are spaced apart in the vertical direction.

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18. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 4, wherein  
said mounting mechanism has a heater, and  
said control unit controls said pressing member such that said pressing member  
and said heater sandwich the portion of the product and the tape to attach them together.

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19. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 7, wherein  
said product placing mechanism further includes weight detection means for  
detecting a weight of the product.

20. The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 14, wherein  
said control means controls said product placing mechanism to place the product  
onto said mounting mechanism only if the product is not a defective product based on the  
seal check.